

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER 2003

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SILENT KEY

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Ray Smith, ZS5RS, on Thursday 27th November. Ray when he did the RAE three years ago obtained top marks in the RSA. He was an active member of the Durban Amateur Radio Club, also a regular writer of articles for the CQ News Letter and a member of the SARL. We extend our condolences to Ursula, Graham, Waine, David and their families. Rest in peace Ray.

(PAUSE).

In the news today:

NEW ZS RECORD ON THE 3 cm / 10 GHz BAND

COUNCIL STATEMENT ON LICENSE REQUIREMENTS AND PRIVILEGES

SPECIAL EVENT STATION ZS100FLY

HOLIDAY SEASON TROPO ACTIVITY

INTECNETS

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL:

The news follows in detail

NEW ZS RECORD ON THE 3 cm / 10 GHz BAND

On Monday 1 December at 16:15 CAT Ivo Chladek ZS6AXT and John Sygo ZS6JON/p, made a QSO on the 10 GHz band between KG33VV in Krugersdorp

and KG46SC near Polokwane over the distance of 298,6 km, thus improving the 10 year old record of 268 km. Reports were 519 both ways. Equipment used was the same on both sides, 1 W transmitters and 60 cm dishes. This path is not direct line of sight and the time was selected at random, without waiting for good propagation conditions. An earlier test over the distance of 400 km was negative, but a QSO over this distance is possible in good conditions. SARL News congratulates these two amateurs on this remarkable achievement. Well done!

ZS6UT OBTAINS 160 m DXCC CERTIFICATE

Since starting on his quest for DXCC on the Top Band in May 1995, it has taken Ed Willers, ZS6UT, 8 years to get the much sought after DXCC No. 1024 which was issued on 24th July 2003. Congratulations to Ed and well done!

COUNCIL STATEMENT ON LICENSE REQUIREMENTS AND PRIVILEGES

Following the call for comments on the proposed changes to license requirements and privileges, Council received a large number of emails, packet messages and letters expressing various opinions. We thank all who contributed their comments and suggestions. Having carefully considered the comments that were received, Council has made the following changes to the proposal:

1. Instead of introducing a new ZT license class, the HF privileges that were to be given to the ZT license will instead be given to the ZR license class, including all existing ZR licensees.
2. These HF privileges will be extended to include both digital mode and phone allocations in the 20, 15 and 10 metre bands.
3. Alternatives to the Morse test will be offered for obtaining a ZS license. This means that there will be several possible ways to fulfil the requirements of the ZS license, one of which will be to pass the Morse test.
4. The practical operating test will be required for all license classes, although each candidate will only have to pass it once, which will then suffice for all future license upgrades.

With these changes the proposal is now as follows:

1. The ZR license will obtain additional HF privileges with a maximum power of 100 W in the following band segments:

1,810 - 1,850 MHz; 3,500 - 3,800 MHz; 7,000 - 7,100 MHz; 14,070 - 14,099 and 14,225 - 14,350 MHz; 21,080 - 21,120 and 21,300 - 21,450 MHz; 28,050 - 28,150 and 28,300 - 28,500 MHz.

To obtain a ZR license candidates will have to pass the Class A RAE and the Practical Operating Test.

2. The ZU license will have operating privileges in the same segments of the 160, 80, 40 and 10 metre bands as the ZR license, but with a maximum power of 20 W. ZU licenses will no longer have operating privileges in the 30 and 15 metre bands. To obtain a ZU license, candidates will have to pass the Class B RAE and the new Practical Operating Test. The curriculum for the Class B RAE will be simplified to make it an entry-level license, along the lines of the British Foundation License.
3. The ZS license will retain its current operating privileges. To obtain a ZS license, candidates will have to pass the class A RAE, the Practical Operating Test and either:
 - (a) The 5 wpm. Morse Test; or
 - (b) An alternative assessment which has been accepted by Council for this purpose and which demonstrates advanced knowledge of, or achievement in, theoretical or practical aspects of amateur radio.

Council has embarked on a process to specify the alternative assessments to be accepted for the ZS license and these will be announced in due course.

This proposal will now be submitted to ICASA who have indicated that they will call for public comment before enacting the necessary changes to regulations. Council believes that the proposal is well balanced and takes into account the aspirations and concerns of all different sectors of the amateur community, and calls on all amateurs to support it.

SPECIAL EVENT STATION ZS100FLY

There will be a special event station operating from this weekend to celebrate 100 years of powered flight. The special call sign of ZS 100 FLY will be used and the station will be operational from various Airports, Historic monuments, Air shows and Aviation sites throughout 2004. A special collectors item QSL card will be issued. The station will operate on all HF Bands and 2 metres.

HOLIDAY SEASON TROPO ACTIVITY

Barry, ZR2DX, reports that the Summer Tropo season is upon us once again, and he has been asked by Port Elizabeth VHF operators to indicate to everyone that they will be monitoring the following frequencies in the hope of Tropo openings: 144,200 USB; 144,400 FM; 50,200 USB and 50,400 FM.

There are 2 m and 6 m beacons in Port Elizabeth, both located on the University Tower Block, in grid locator KF25. These are on 50,005 MHz and 144,415 MHz. If you hear these beacons please give a call!! There are a number of FM-only stations on both 6 and 2 in the Port Elizabeth and surrounding areas, so give a call on FM too!! Listen out for Andre, ZS2AJ, in Grahamstown, KF36 - quite a rare grid, on 6 metres FM, as well as Neels, ZR2ABT, from Gamtoos River Mouth on 6 m SSB.

DATES FOR THE NEXT TWO INTECNETS ANNOUNCED

The dates for the next two SARL Interactive Technical Nets have been confirmed. The first INTECNET will be held on Sunday 14 December at 20:00 Central African Time and the second one on 18 January 2004.

On December 14 the subject for discussion will be Logbook of the World with Chris Burger, ZS6EZ. Chris Burger is well known for his DXing and Contesting activities and was a contributor to the development of the software. He will discuss the package, its impact on Amateur Radio and how South African Amateurs can benefit.

The net will be on the air at 20:00 CAT on 2 metre repeaters around South Africa and on 3 718 kHz HF. Clubs wishing to join their repeaters to the network should send a request to armi@sarl.org.za giving the telephone number to be used for the link and the frequency and location of the repeater.

The first INTECNET for 2004 will take place on 18 January with Thomas Abbott as the guest speaker on the subjects of Antennas. Diarise these two dates now, December 14 and January 18.

RADIO ZS

Members can now download the most recent edition of Radio ZS from the SARL website. The file is 1,4 megs big and should be a fairly easy download. The editor is busy preparing the last issue for 2003 and is in need of local articles. These can be sent to radiozs@sarl.org.za. This issue will be available on the SARL website by the end of next week.

THE ZS1SALT OUTING

Members of the Boland Amateur Radio Club operated a special station at the astronomical observatory east of Sutherland over the weekend 21 to 23 November..

Friday morning 6 OM's ie. Karl, ZS1KC, Koos, ZS1KWV, Johan, ZU1LR, Martin, ZS1SM, Rassie, ZS1YT, and Deon, ZS1ZL, met in Malmesbury, loaded equipment and set off with two vehicles to Sutherland where South Africa's largest telescope is nearing completion.

The trip went uneventful except for a puncture experienced with the caravan which caused Martin and Deon to arrive a little late in Sutherland. Olivier, ZS1OLI, and Bennie, ZR1JAD, as well as Raoul, who travelled with their own transport, joined the other six at sunset.

Johan Scholtz, the technical man at the telescope, received us and allocated sites for a kitchen and camping. Friday evening was spent socially with the OM's getting better acquainted with each other

On Saturday morning inverted V antennas were erected for 10/20/40 en 80 m, a 15/20 m beam, a 10 m beam and a 10 el. 2 m beam.

On Saturday afternoon Johan Scholtz took us through the nearly completed large telescope and explained the technical operation of it. We could see how

the dome turns on an air pillow and when it started opening, so that we could see the rain clouds outside, it was the cherry on the cake. The whole telescope project is the brain child of the same person who conceived the South African Rooivalk helicopter and let it take to the air.

The 10, 15 and 20 m bands performed reasonably well and Olivier contacted a good many DX stations. Some of those contacted mentioned that they are aware of the project here in South Africa.

Johan Scholtz, his YL and daughter were or guests on Saturday evening and Deon prepared a meal as by the best restaurants in the city.

On Sunday I (Koos, ZS1KWV) contacted a number of amateurs in the Western Cape on 2 m SSB simplex over a distance of 300 km.

After a late breakfast vs. an early lunch, we dismantled the station, loaded the equipment and departed.

It was a very interesting weekend and I recommend that anybody who may be visiting in the neighbourhood, contact the information office in Sutherland and arrange a visit to the observatory and see modern South African technology of the highest order. Greetings from Koos, ZS1KWV.

DATES TO REMEMBER

INTECHNET 14 December. Last day for submission of motions for the AGM as well as nominations for council members is now 5 January 2004. Final date for renewal of membership of SARL is now 31 December.

13 - 14 December - the ARRL 10 Metre contest; 10 - 11 January 2004 - Hunting Lions on the Air; 23 - 25 January 2004 PEARS VHF/UHF Contest.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Dennis, ZS4BS, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX